Rail travel concessions for physically handicapped persons

413. SHRI T. THANGABALU: WiH the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether travel concessions in air-conditioned Chair Cars and Air-conditioned coaches are not available to physically handicapped persons; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The facility of travel concession is at present allowed to physically handicapped persons in First and Second classes only. A proposal to extend this facility in respect of travel by A.C. 2-tier sleeper coaches also is under consideration.

Bombay-Mangfalore Rail link

414. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased *to* state:

(a) what is the progress made so far in the construction of Bombay-Mangalore coastal Railway link;

(b) what is the target date for completion of this route upto Mangalore; and

(c) what specific provisions for this link are proposed to be included in the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Bombay to Apta is already connected by rail. The construction of Apta-Roha (62 Kms.) new B.Gi line has been taken up since 1978-79, as a first phase of the West Coast line from Apta to Mangalore. The Apta-Pon (20.35 Kms.) section has since been completed and opened to traffic on 21-2-1983. Work is being executed on the Pon-Roha section (41.65 Kms.) and efforts are being made to complete and open the next phase between Pon and Nagothana (27 Kms.) during 1984-85.

(b) Due to severe constraint of re-' sources, the construction of rail line from Roha to Mangalore has not been approved so far and as such no target can be given for its completion.

(c) Due consideration will be given for taking up construction on other parts of this line during Seventh Plan depending on allocation made fop Net* Lines in Seventh Plan.

Rail links in coastal District of Ratnagiri

415. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: WiH the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Karad-Chipleen and Kolhft-pur-Ratnagiri rail links in coastal district of Ratnagiri; .and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these two rail links are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) There if no proposal at present to construct new rail links from Karad to Chiplun and Kolhapur to Ratnagiri.

(b) Does not arise.

New Rail Projects in Bihar

416. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new projects fat track extension or .conversion in Bihar which either been surveyed or started during the tenures of late Shri L. H. Mishra and late Shri Kedar Pandey as Minister for Railways; and

(b) what is the present position in regard to the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAM CHOUDHURY): (a) to (b) List of New projects for track extension and conversion in Bihar started during the tenure of late Shri L. N. Mishra and